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UNPUBLISHED LATIN INSCRIPTIONS

1.

FRAGMENT of a large monumental slab of marble found about five years ago in a field not far from Palestrina (Praeneste). Height, 0.53 m.; greatest width, 0.33 m.; thickness, 0.04 m.; height of letters, 0.05 m.

F O R T V
E N I A E . S
V I L L I V S . P
I A G . N A V A
/ O T O . S V S
L . M
D . D . D

Interpret: [*Deae* .] *Fortu*[*nae* . *Pri*|*mig*]*eniae* . *s*[*acrum*] | [. . . .]
uillius . *P*[.] | *mag(ister)* . *naua(lium)* | [*ex* .] *uoto* . *sus*-
[*cepto* .] | *L(ibens)* . *M(erito)* | *D . D . D*.

We have here a new dedication to the well-known *Fortuna Primigenia* of Praeneste. The letters are excellent capitals of the first century A.D., or early second at the latest. The title *mag(ister) naua(lium)*, "master of the shipyards," is interesting. Certainly such a functionary was never employed in the inland city of Praeneste. More likely, having been saved from some misfortune or succeeded in some hazardous enterprise, he made a pilgrimage to Praeneste to pay his vow to the potent goddess there worshipped. The name is uncertain, [A]uillius, [S]uillius, or the like. I have been told, on what authority I do not know, that other fragments of the same inscription have come to light. The stone here published has been for a number of years in my garden in Rome. I have recently presented it to the American School of Classical Studies.

2.

This curious epigraphic monument (Fig. 1) is said to have been found in 1905 outside of the Porta di S. Lorenzo not far

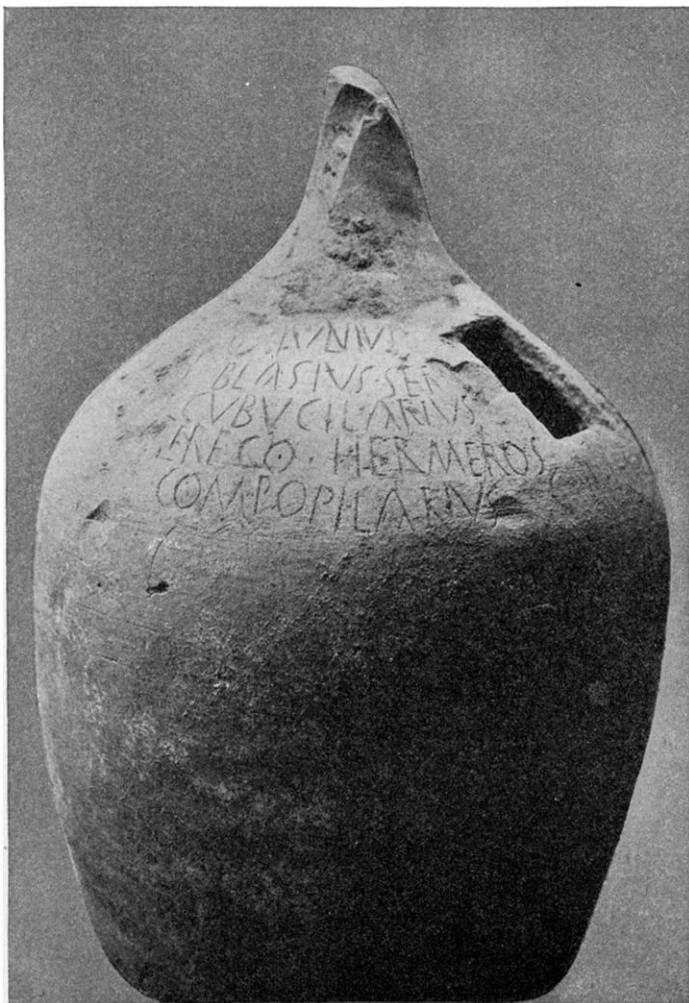


FIGURE 1. — INSCRIBED AMPHORA.

from the Campo Verano. As it is unique of its kind, so far as I know, it merits a detailed description. We seem to have here the primitive *domus aeterna* of certain slaves together with a *civis*,

who must have been of the class of Horace's "*Pantolabi scurrae Nomentanique nepotis*." These poor folk had improvised a novel resting-place for their bones and those of their friends. They selected a large *amphora* of the kind commonly used for storing and transporting wines, oils, etc. This they carefully sawed in two; the upper half they discarded, but the lower half, turned upside down and set in the ground, or in a niche in the tomb, became an admirable ash-urn. A rectangular perforation in the shoulder served to insert the ashes of the deceased. On the flank of the jar, the following inscription in well-made letters was incised with a pointed instrument :

Q · IVNIVS
 BLASIVS · SER
 CVBVCILARIVS (sic)
 /// EREGO · HERMEROS
 COMPOPILARIVS (sic)

Professor Ettore Pais, who examined the jar in my garden in Rome, agrees with me that the letters are of the first century A.D. The inscription itself presents several points of interest and of difficult interpretation. The first line gives us the name of a freeman. The writer had cut Q · IVLIVS, and then, noticing his mistake, changed it to Q · IVNIVS. The second and third lines record Blasius, the household slave. Blasius, a known slave name, has become, through St. Blasius, a common Christian name in Italy under the form *Biagio*. The misspelling CVBVCILARIVS, if it is not a mere accidental *metathesis litterarum*, is an interesting bit of evidence for the hard pronunciation of *c* before *i* by the common people of Rome in the first century. The next name, or word, [.]EREGO, I am unable to explain; I had tried to see ET EGO, supposing Hermeros to have been the writer and improviser of the tomb, but the R is clear. Lastly, Hermeros is designated as COMPOPILARIVS, and this is the *crux* of the inscription, a new word unknown to Latin lexicons. It is evidently a popular formation, and the termination -ARIVS places it at once in the category of words denoting occupations.¹ The prefix CON-, too, is frequent in

¹ For a discussion of this class of words in inscriptions, see my *Word Formation in the Latin Inscriptions*, 1898, pp. 137 sq.

popular words; cf. COMMILITO, COMPAGANVS, CONSERVVS, CONTIRO, CONTVBERNALIS, and the like. Hermeros, then, was a fellow *POPILARIVS of the others, and I leave it to heads wiser than mine to determine with precision what a *POPILARIVS may have been. I was inclined at first to connect it with POPINA, through a diminutive *POPILLA, in the sense of "fellow-roisterer"; such an expression in the face of death would be quite in keeping with the vulgar Roman mind.¹ But I think it far more likely that we have here a mis-spelling for COMVPILLARIVS, and our slaves will then have been in charge of their master's wards,² *pupilli*, of course merely as servants, and not in the legal sense of *tutores*; in short, something below *paedagogi*.³

The height of the urn is 0.53 m.; greatest circumference, 1.23 m.; hole for insertion of ashes, 0.09 m. × 0.06 m. The letters, evenly made, vary in height from 0.02 m. to 0.03 m.

3.

Marble slab belonging to a *loculus* (0.22 m. × 0.12 m. × 0.03 m.), found in 1906 in the excavations outside the Aurelian Walls for the construction of the new quarter of the Corso Pinciano, between the Porta Pinciana and the Porta Salaria.

P O L L I A ▽ C ▽ > ▽ L .
V R B A N A · O R N A T · D E
A E M I L I A N I S · O L L A S · I I
M · C A L I D I V S · M · L · T O S O R
A P O L O N I · D E A E M I L I A N I S

Pollia G(ai) (et mulieris) l(iberta) Urbana ornat(rix) de Aemilianis ollas II (sc. comparavit). *M. Calidius M. l(ibertus) To(n)sor Apol(l)oni(anus) ? de Aemilianis.*

¹ For similar sepulchral sentiments, cf. e.g. *C.I.L.* III 293: DVM VIXI [BI]BI LIBENTER, BIBI[TE] VOS QVI VIVITIS.

² I wonder if the ALVMINARIVS of *C.I.L.* VI 9142, instead of a "dealer in *alumen*," may not be for **alumnarius*, in charge of the *alumni* (young slaves). The form ALVMINO = ALVMNO occurs *C.I.L.* VIII 410.

³ Perhaps line 4 should be read [*S*]er(vos) ego Hermeros. Then *compopilarius* may be for *compopularius*, a not unnatural development from *popularis*, used here in the sense in which *popularis* is used by Terence, *Phormio*, I, i, 1, where Davos speaks of Geta as his *popularis*, meaning simply "fellow-slave." The two lines would then mean: "I, Hermeros, am a slave, in the same class

The inscription is of topographical as well as epigraphic interest. I have cited it already in my *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae Epigraphicae*, Vol. I, fasc. 7, p. 155, s.v. *Aemiliana*; but as it may not there come under the eyes of the editors of *C.I.L.*, I have thought it best to repeat it here with a word of comment. The freedman and his wife had been employed as slaves, she as lady's hairdresser and he as barber (in fact, he had been familiarly known simply as "the Barber," which had become his slave name); and after obtaining their freedom they (or the woman, at least) had continued the same occupations in the district known as *Aemiliana*, which, to judge from several casual references in literature and a single inscription published by Gruter (which has not yet found its place in *C.I.L.*), must have extended from somewhere outside the *Porta Fontinalis* to the river front. Unfortunately the present inscription gives us no further information as to its location. The letters are carefully made along incised lines the traces of which are still to be seen, and the red pigment is well preserved.

4.

Coarse slab (0.25 m. \times 0.10 m. \times 0.01 m.) with ornamental ends in imitation of bronze tablets. The metal spud at the right is still in place, that at the left is missing from its hole. *Litterae actuariæ*. The back of the slab is fluted lengthwise, as it had previously served as a moulding of a wall or pilaster. Same source as last.

L · G E L L I V S · P R I M V S
V · A N · V · M · V I · D · X X

L. Gellius Primus v(ixit) an(nis) V, m(ensibus) VI, d(iebus) XX.

5.

Small slab (0.20 m. \times 0.095 m.), in form of *tabula ansata*, with holes for spuds. Same source.

(as Blasius).'' The word might also be used in the other transferred sense, "belonging to the same school," "addicted to the same tastes," or even, though this seems less probable, in its more primitive meaning, "from the same place." — H. N. F.

OLLA · SUPERIOR
Q · LAGERIVS
Q · L · DIONYSIVS
LAGERIA · Q · L · PRIMA

The upper line, *olla superior*, was an afterthought.

6.

Long double slab, broken in two, of which this is half.
Same source.

ASCONIAE · C · LIB ·
CANDIDAE
C · ALBIVS · FELIX · CARISSIMVS

The terms of affection in sepulchral inscriptions merit a special study. It is curious how active and passive meanings merge. Thus, *amans*, *amantissimus* often = "beloved," *desiderantissimus* = "deeply mourned," etc.; and here *carissimus*, as elsewhere, is clearly not "most dear" (to her), but "most fond" (of her), *i.e.* "in loving memory."

7.

Small slab. (0.20 m. × 0.10 m.) Same source.

FAENIA · RHOMÉ
PATRONO · ACCEPTISSIM
V · A · XXXVI

8.

Small slab. (0.15 m. × 0.07 m. × 0.025 m.) Broken at the left, but with iron spud in place at the right. Coarse leaf-pattern above, incised *ansa* on the right. Same source.

LAETVS · Q · PLOTI · SER
VIXIT · AN · XXII
HELENA · CONSERVA
DE · SVO · FECIT

9.

Slab with carved (not incised) *ansae*. (0.17 m. \times 0.09 m. \times 0.02 m.) Careful letters. Same source.

M · O B E L L I V S
A C A S T V S
A V R V F · D E · A V R E L I A

M(anus) Obellius Acastus auruf(ex) de Aurelian(is)

We seem to have mentioned here a place in Rome, hitherto wholly unknown: *Aureliana* (sc. *praedia*). Cf. *Aemiliana* above, No. 3.

10.

Small slab (0.15 m. \times 0.12 m. \times 0.02 m.), with spuds in place. Same source. Note the *apices*.

I V L I A · F E C I T
I Á N V Á R I Ó · V E R N Á E
S V Ó
V I X · A N N · V I I

11.

Upright slab of white marble with pedimental top containing a sculptured rosette. (0.32 m. \times 0.18 m. \times 0.04 m.) Same source.

D · M ·
A N N I A · S V C
C E S S A · T · F L A V I O
A V G V S T I · L I B E R
H Y G I N O · C O N
I V G I · O P T I M O
B E N E · M E R E N
T I · F E C I T · V I X I T
A N N I S · X X X X V
M E N S E S · I I I I

12.

Small slab (0.21 m. \times 0.11 m. \times 0.035 m.) with two heavy iron nails, found in the summer of 1907 in the neighborhood of the Corso Pinciano.

C · F I R M I V S · C · L
P A M P H I L V S

13.

Large slab (0.40 m. \times 0.30 m. \times 0.035 m.) with sunken border, broken at three corners. Carefully and deeply cut square capitals. Same source as last.

D I S ▽ M A N I B V S
D A P N O A R V N T I A ▽
P R E P V S A ▽ C O N I V G I ▽ K A
R I S S I M O F E C I T ▽ C V M Q V O
V I X I T A N N ▽ X X X V I I E T S I B I
E T P O S T E R I S Q V E S V I S
I N F R ▽ P ▽ I I I I S = - I N A G R ▽ P ▽ I I I S

Measurement of tomb, $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ *pedes*.

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